

Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio

**Environmental, Safety and
Occupational Health (ESOH)
Newsletter**

September 2003

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Study Touts Side Air Bags

Thanks to Barry Moncrief, AFRL/IFTA for forwarding the following New York Times article:

DETROIT, Aug. 25 - Side air bags that include head protection systems can reduce the risk of dying in side-impact collisions by half, according to a study from an insurance industry group to be released Tuesday. The results suggest that side air bags, a relatively recent technology, could be as important to safety as seat belts, the insurance group said. The group also emphasized that the two perform very different functions and are not mutually exclusive.



Side-impact head and torso air bags will be available on 2003 Saturn's I-Series and S-Series sedans. Saturn is the first U.S. brand to feature this technology. (AP/Wide World)

"When it comes to highway safety, we don't often find reductions of this size," said Susan Ferguson, senior vice president for research at the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, a leading auto safety research group that is financed by insurers. "Hopefully, what this will mean is that more manufacturers will offer them as standard equipment," she added.

The study is the first major look at how side air bags, which began to appear in the late 1990's, are performing. Side-impact collisions lead to more than 9,000 deaths each year and are causing more concern as sport utility vehicles and pickup trucks proliferate, creating more mismatches between cars and larger vehicles. Unlike frontal collisions, there is scant room in side-impact collisions to absorb blows.

Last year, under pressure from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, automakers agreed to work to improve the compatibility of different vehicles. An industry working group will release a first set of recommendations by the end of the year; equipping vehicles with side air bags is expected to be part of the process.

The insurance institute study examines what happens to drivers when vehicles are struck on the driver's side. The study showed that 157 drivers died for every 100,000 passenger cars involved in side collisions from 1997 to 2002 model years, if those vehicles were equipped with side air bags that protected the head. That compared with 248 deaths in vehicles in which side air bags were an option that had not been purchased. The death toll rose to 362 in cars that had no side air bag option available, though the first and second categories represent vehicles and drivers that are thought to be more comparable.

Side air bags with head protection led to a 53 percent reduction in the chance that a driver would be killed when struck on the driver's side by another vehicle.

The study found that not all air bags are created equal. Systems that offer protection for the torso and head appear to be considerably more effective than those that protect just the torso. Driver death rates per 100,000 crashes were 230 for vehicles equipped with torso protection bags, compared with 250 where such technology was an unselected option. Though the study was narrowly focused on driver's side impacts leading to driver

deaths, it could possibly have implications for a wider set of circumstances. "They ought to help in serious injury crashes, too," Ms. Ferguson said.

In considering side air bags as an option, consumers have so far tended to penny-pinch. According to both **Toyota** and **the Ford Motor Company**, only about a fifth of customers who buy vehicles that have optional side air bags end up selecting them as a feature. But side air bags are becoming more widely available. Of 2004 model vehicles, 47 percent will offer some kind of side air bag as standard or optional, up from 40 percent in the 2003 model year.

"Some customers are gun-shy when it comes to air bags," a Ford spokeswoman, Kristen Kinley, said. "They are a fairly new type of air bag and consumers aren't aware of their effectiveness and there aren't many studies to show they are effective." For parents, air bags in general have been a source of concern. Reports surfaced in the 1990's that some children were being killed by the force of conventional air bags, which are aimed at mitigating frontal impact injury. The industry took steps to address the issue and jointly set testing procedures to avoid the problem in side air bags. Today, the most expansive side air bag systems, combining head and torso protection as standard features in all seats, appear only in a few foreign brands. They include the Audi A8 sedan, the Mercedes C, E and S Class sedans as well as its M-Class sport utility, and **Volkswagen's** coming luxury sedan, the Phaeton. Surprisingly, Hyundai's Kia division, known as the lowest-cost brand, will offer the full extent of the technology on its Amanti sedan, which goes on sale early next year and will start above \$25,000.

"I think you're going to see them proliferate," a Kia spokesman, Kim Custer, said of side air bags. He added: "We would like to make sure that someone feels they don't have to compromise on safety when they buy a vehicle that is a good value."

General Motors offers a variety of configurations. Two newer Cadillacs, the CTS sedan and the SRX wagon, have head protection systems in the front and rear as standard features, as well as torso protection bags in the front seats. The company's Chevrolet Cavalier has optional side torso air bags in the front seats for \$350. The Lexus division of Toyota offers comprehensive side air bag systems as standard features on its entire lineup, but has relatively few standard offerings on its Toyota brand. For \$650, a Camry buyer can get a head protection system in all seats and a torso protection bag in the front.

The study did not compare different head protection systems, because not enough data has accumulated. BMW makes a sausage-shaped bag that deploys from the roof. A more prevalent offering is the side curtain, which falls over the windows from the roof and looks like a miniature raft. A third type deploys from the seat and offers protection for the head and the torso.



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The New York Times Company <<http://www.nytc.com/>>

Beware of Aerosol Cans!



Do you keep WD-40, hair spray, Off, Fix-A-Flat, etc. in your vehicle? If so, you might want to reconsider. The picture above is of a pressurized can that exploded in a person's vehicle and imbedded itself in the back seat of the car. The temperature

outside of the closed up vehicle was about 100 degrees F. What if you or a loved one had been sitting in that seat? Do any of your family members keep aerosol cans in their vehicles? If they do, please pass this warning along to them!



The photos on the left show what resulted when a deodorant spray can was left in the back of the vehicle parked in an open space in the middle of a hot, sunny day.

Without warning, the can exploded inside the car. Fortunately, no one was inside or near the car when it happened.

Lesson:

Do **NOT** leave pressurized containers (of any kind) in your vehicle where they can be exposed to sunlight!

John C. Kuntz
Accident & Illness Prevention Analyst
Bureau of Workers' Compensation

Thanks to MSgt Larry Stulz, 445 AW/SE for forwarding this article.

August AFRL Blood Drive Results



Thanks to everyone who donated blood during the August AFRL Blood Drives!! The following is a note from the Base's Blood Donor recruiter, Marti Isherwood. The real thanks goes out to all of you who generously donated your time and your blood for a very worthwhile cause! Your blood is greatly appreciated as you can see.

"Thank you for organizing the super blood drives in August. The drive couldn't have taken place without you! Please let me know if there is any way that we can make future blood drives better. Between the two blood drives, 84 people participated and 70 units were collected. Your input is invaluable. The blood donated at the drive will go a long way in assuring that the Wright-Patterson Blood Donor Center meets the need for blood!"

Thanks again,
Marti A. Isherwood,
WPAFB Blood Donor Recruiter, Armed Services Blood Program
74th Medical Group/SGSCB, Wright-Patterson AFB, Oh 45433
937.257.1038

If you have any comments or suggestions for future blood drives, please contact Mary Shelly at 5-9000 mary.shelly@wpafb.af.mil.

Future AFRL Blood Drives:

AFRL/ML - 15 Oct, 17 Dec, 30 Dec 03,
Bldg 653 Cafetorium from 0900-1400
POC: Mary Shelly, 255-9000

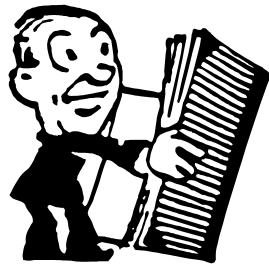
AFRL/SN - 10 Sep, 26 Nov
POC: Capt Secrest, 256-3643

AFRL/PR - 1 Oct
POC: Bob Behdadnia, 255-4171

Click here to see if you are **eligible to donate:**

http://tricare.osd.mil/asbpo/donor_info/deferral.htm

Visit the **Armed Services Blood Program** website for more info on **donating blood:** <http://tricare.osd.mil/asbpo/>
or call the Donor Center at 70580 or 71038



Reader Comments



It's that time of year when wasps and bees are trying to find winter homes. Unfortunately, our flammable gas cylinders, which are stored outside, make perfect nesting places inside the caps. We now have swarms of wasps over in bldg 21. I will buy some wasp spray and keep it in the chemical cabinet in our gas cylinder storage area for all to use. Be very careful when moving any gas cylinders that have been stored outside for a period of time. These little guys really get miffed when disturbed.

John F Leonard, CHMM
Chemical Hygiene Officer
Propulsion Directorate

Anyone who handles animals should at least be aware of the potential threat of Monkey Pox. Good fact sheet at the following link:

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/monkeypox/animalbasics.htm>

Gavin Spencer
AFRL/PRAS/Taitech



Recycling Reminders:

Fluorescent Bulbs should be turned in to the Building Monitor (RPBM) for turn-in to 88 ABW/EM. DO NOT throw fluorescent bulbs in the trash! Any questions, contact EM at 77152 or visit their website at http://www.abwem.wpafb.af.mil/EM/hazmat/index.cfm?fuseaction=main&obj_id=84.

Toner Cartridges should be recycled through the Base Recycling Center rather than being returned to the manufacturer. This way, money earned stays on WPAFB and gets put toward Base Quality of Life programs. Toner cartridges can be placed in the paper recycling boxes. The recycling center staff will find them when they process the paper.

**Why you may need a permit to enter a confined space.
You never know what hazards may be present...**



ESOH Training and Opportunities

Wright-Patterson ESOH Web Sites:

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT:

<http://www.abwem.wpafb.af.mil/em/>

SAFETY: <https://www.asc.wpafb.af.mil/asc/safety/index.html>

PUBLIC HEALTH: <https://wpmc3.wpafb.af.mil/amds/ph/index.htm>

BIOENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING: <https://www.bio.wpafb.af.mil/>

HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER (HAWC):

<http://wpmc1.wpafb.af.mil/pages/hawc/>



RCRA Hazardous Waste Training: Mandatory for all employees who generate hazardous waste. Issue Point (IP) Managers, Hazwaste generators, primary and alternate Initial Accumulation Point (IAP) managers, Unit Environmental Coordinators (UECs), and supervisors of all these individuals must take annual RCRA training.

PLEASE SCHEDULE ALL RCRA HAZARDOUS WASTE TRAINING with Susan Dilworth at 75627 x223 or [CLICK HERE to schedule electronically](#)

Initial Training: 18 Sep, 20 Nov 03

Annual Refresher Training - AFRL Only

25 Sep (cancelled), 13 Nov 03

Annual Refresher Training - Organizations other than AFRL

16 Oct, 18 Dec 03

Environmental Compliance, Assessment and Management Program (ECAMP) Training (ENV220)



This course is designed to give students knowledge to successfully plan and execute an internal or external compliance assessment (such as ECAMP), prepare required reports, and direct the follow-up actions. For more information on the course see AFIT's website. <http://cess.afit.af.mil/>

You must sign up for the course through your Training Focal Point (TFP). Contractor registration should be coordinated through their assigned organization's TFP. Additional paperwork is required for contractors to attend this course.

**For more information contact
Karen Thompson, 88 ABW/EMO at 72010 x 211**

Environmental, Safety and Occupational Health (ESOH) Awareness Training

22 Oct 03

Sign up with 88 ABW/ EM, Treva Bashore, 72201 x233

This course covers a broad range of topics and requirements that apply to all of us at Wright-Patterson, including mandatory training requirements. This course is highly recommended for all employees on Base, including contractors. Supervisors are highly encouraged to attend.



CPR Training

Required for electrical and confined space workers per 29 CFR 1910.151. The American Heart Association recommends CPR refresher training every two years and the American Red Cross recommends CPR refresher training every year. CPR training (per the American Heart Association) is **taught at the Base Hospital every Tuesday** provided that there are enough students.

Contact Marcia Wilson at 79347 or Karen Turner 48384 (Bldg 675 Area B)

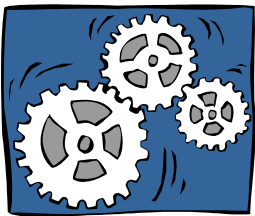


Operational Risk Management (ORM)

To sign up, contact Chuck Swankhaus at 43390

ORM is a tool anyone can use to help with planning and decision-making in order to reduce or eliminate potential risks and increase efficiency. The Safety Office (ASC/SEG) has made two ORM briefings available over the Internet. Click on the following links to

learn more about ORM:



Awareness Level ORM Training:

https://www.asc.wpafb.af.mil/asc/safety/orm/exec_training.ppt

Level II ORM Training:

https://www.asc.wpafb.af.mil/asc/safety/orm/orm_level_ii_training.ppt

Public Health Training for 2003

All Training will be held at 1400 in the Public Health Classroom in building 675, located in Area B. If needed, more classes will be added to the schedule. To sign up for training or work specific education, please contact Public Health at 255-2515.



Hazardous Communication (HAZCOM)

24 Oct 03

This course is a Train-the-Trainer course that provides mandatory HAZCOM training to supervisors and safety reps responsible for their organization's HAZCOM program. Must have previously had general Hazcom.

Hazcom training per 29 CFR 1910.1200 is required for all employees who use, handle, or may be exposed to hazardous materials upon initial assignment to that job (if not already receiving Chemical Hygiene Training per 29 CFR 1910.1450). HAZCOM refresher training is required whenever a new chemical or hazardous process is introduced into the work area or it is evident an employee needs refresher training. Otherwise, there is no "annual" requirement for HAZCOM training.

Ergonomics Training

21 Nov 03

Open to all interested DOD and military workers. Focus will be on Repetitive Motion Illnesses. If you would like in-depth ergonomic training that is more job specific, Public Health is available to do that on a one-to-one basis.



Reproductive Hazards in the Workplace

7 Nov 03

Open to workplace supervisors, safety reps, and any interested Base personnel.

Laser Hazards

12 Sep, 12 Dec 03

Open to workplace supervisors or Safety Reps.

Asbestos Awareness

19 Sep, 5 Dec 03

Mandatory for all building managers and CE personnel.

Hearing Conservation (General)

26 Sep, 14 Nov 03

Open to all base employees, recommended for all employees routinely exposed to noise.

OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH TRAINING AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

Cadmium	Carbon monoxide
Cold Stress	Heat Stress
Lead	Personal Protective Equipment
Respiratory Protection	Benzene
Formaldehyde	Universal Precautions/ Bloodborne Pathogens



**Health and
Wellness Center**

Call 904-WELL (9355) to get the latest schedule of classes. Class sizes are limited. All classes require pre-registration but are free. Classes will be held at Hangar 22 (Bldg 571) Area B - Wright Field Fitness Center. Many briefings can be individualized and brought to your organization.

To schedule an appointment or for more information, please call the HAWC at 904-WELL (9355).

If you have any suggestions for this newsletter or if you would like to be added / removed from the distribution list, please contact **Mary Shelly** via email or at 59000.